CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at an audio-rendering device, data comprising digital audio data transmitted across a network from a host;

determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded;

selecting a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded;

decoding the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme to generate decoded audio data, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded; ~~and~~

preparing ~~the received digital~~ the decoded audio data for output, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded; and[[.]]

preparing the received digital audio data for output without decoding, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is not encoded.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

preparing the received digital audio data for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output[[.]]; and

preparing the decoded audio data for output comprises converting the decoded audio data to analog audio for output.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of the at least two coding schemes comprises determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to coding schemes including mp3, wav, au, and aiff.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving digital audio data comprises receiving a plurality of digital audio data segments and reconstructing the digital audio data from the received plurality of digital audio data segments.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes comprises identifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and

if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed, then decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the selected decoding scheme.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising providing as output the analog audio to an amplification device.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least one of a plurality of networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

10. (Currently Amended) A special purpose audio-rendering device comprising:

a network interface to receive digital audio data transmitted over a network from an audio host; and

a processor coupled with the network interface to:

determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed;

select a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed; [[and]]

decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme to generate decompressed audio data, if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed; and

a converter coupled to the processor to:

convert the ~~received digital~~ decompressed audio data to analog audio for output, if the processor determines that the received digital audio data is compressed; and[[.]]

convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output without decoding, if the processor determines that the received digital audio data is uncompressed.

11. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The special purpose audio-rendering device according to claim 10, further comprising a read only memory coupled to the processor to store at least one CODEC.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A residential network audio system comprising:

a host device disposed in a first location to transmit digital audio data over a network;

an audio bridging device disposed in a second location, the audio bridging device communicatively coupled to the host device via the network to receive the digital audio data transmitted from the host device, to determine whether received digital audio data is encoded, to select a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, to decode the received digital audio data to generate decoded audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme if the received digital audio data is encoded, to convert the decoded audio data to analog audio for output if the received digital audio data is encoded, and to convert the received

digital audio data to analog audio for output if the received digital audio is not encoded; and

stereo equipment communicatively coupled to the audio bridging device, the stereo equipment to amplify the analog audio.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the network comprises a network including at least one of a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

19. (Previously Presented) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the audio bridging device is further disposed to:

determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and

decompress the compressed digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme.

20. (Original) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted according to the real-time transport protocol (RTP).

21. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, that when executed by the machine, cause the machine to:

receive digital audio data;

determine whether the received digital audio data is encoded;

select a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the received digital audio data is determined to be encoded;

decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme to generate decoded audio data, if the received digital audio data is determined to be encoded; and

prepare the ~~received digital~~ decoded audio data for output, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded; and [[.]]

prepare the received digital audio data for output without decoding, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is not encoded.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 21, wherein receiving the digital audio data further comprises receiving the digital audio data transmitted across a local area network from a host device.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

executing an audio application on a host device to play digital audio data stored on the host device;

intercepting the digital audio data output from the audio application to encapsulate the digital audio data within a plurality of data segments;

providing an indication, within at least one of [[a]]the plurality of data segments, whether the digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two audio coding schemes; and

transmitting the plurality of data segments across at a local area network ("LAN") to an audio-rendering device. ~~least one of a plurality of networks including a home phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network to an audio-rendering device.~~

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein providing the indication, within the at least one of the plurality of data segments, whether the digital audio data is encoded according to the one of the at least two audio coding schemes comprises providing an indicator code within the at least one of the plurality of data segments.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of claim [[26]]6, further comprising:

selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code comprises:

accessing a lookup table that includes entries for the at least two coding schemes;

comparing the identified indicator code to the entries in the lookup table; and

identifying an entry in the lookup table that corresponds to the indicator code, wherein the entry is the coding scheme by which the received digital audio data is encoded.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein preparing the received digital audio data for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

31. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein intercepting the digital audio data output from the audio application comprises intercepting the digital audio data prior to decoding the digital audio data on the host device.

32. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein:

intercepting the digital audio data output from the audio application comprises intercepting the digital audio data after decoding the digital audio data on the host device;

providing the indication whether the digital audio data is encoded comprises indicating that the digital audio data is not encoded; and

transmitting the plurality of data segments comprises transmitting the plurality of data segments having decoded digital audio data encapsulated within the plurality of data segments.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising selecting to intercept the digital audio data with a software switch on the host device.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein selecting to intercept the digital audio data comprises diverting the digital audio data output from the audio application from playing on speakers attached to the host device for transmission onto the LAN.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein selecting to intercept the digital audio data comprises simultaneously providing the digital audio data output from the audio application for playing on speakers attached to the host device and for transmission onto the LAN.

36. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the LAN comprises a power line network.